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Tri-Town Times

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Funding for Sandown Stream Gauge Dries Up

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – Despite its installation just three years ago, the stream gauge in the Exeter River, described as an asset to scientists and town planners alike, appears to be losing its funding this year as money dries up from the state level.

Funding for the gauge was the result of cooperation between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the state legislature, and while the USGS is still looking to fund operations, the state end of things will drop off in July.

Residents may have noticed the stream gauge's bright silver box next to the bridge on Odell Road where it passes over the Exeter River. It's a piece of equipment that continually tracks

water flow and sends that information to be downloaded to the internet, where scientists and laymen alike can see what the river is doing 24 hours a day.

While seemingly an esoteric operation, the data gathered is useful not only to scientists but to everyone from homeowners to environmentalists. The information allows researchers to find patterns, or none, in stream flows and provide that information to fellow researchers, town planners and lawmakers. According to Rick Kiah, the USGS's Data Chief for New Hampshire and Vermont, that information minimizes the loss of life and property during natural disasters; helps manage water resources for domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological uses; protects and enhances water

resources for human health, aquatic health, and environmental quality; and contributes to wise physical and economic development of the nation's resources.

The funding for Sandown's gauge was the result of a few converging forces, including relatively severe flooding that buffeted the region - especially since the Mother's Day Flood of 2006, thorough study of the Exeter River, and recommendations from a task force set up to see where the gauges could be of most use.

Fifteen other gauges were installed at the same time as Sandown's, at a time when funding cuts had reduced the number of stream gauges to the lowest the state had seen since 1939. Five gauges are set to be pulled out in July.

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Chester School Board Looks at Creating Technology Plan

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – At their March meeting, the school board reviewed a draft technology plan written up through a cooperation between principal Leslie Leahy and technology director Bill Cavanaugh.

The plan, known as the Five Year Technology Renewal and Replacement Plan, was introduced at the board's February meeting. The plan outlines every piece of equipment in the school, including such things as its age, estimated useful life, wiring needs, and cost to replace. It's information intended to create a schedule of replacement as well as to provide students with more

technology. The plan outlines school needs and plans for the future.

While various concerns were raised by tech-savvy school board members Royal Richardson and Catherine Treanor about the technical aspects of the school's current and future capabilities, a sticking point for Richardson came in the Purposes and Scope chapter on the first page.

That chapter indicates that with the current economic climate, expenditures will remain relatively flat, and expenses will be capped at 3 percent in the next two years. Richardson said this was a backwards way to go about creating a technology plan.

What should happen, he said, is that a budget should

be built to a plan, not vice versa.

"We should decide what we need, and then figure out the costs," said Richardson. He referenced and seconded past discussions among board members that technology was woefully underfunded at Chester Academy, and there would come a time when the school had to pay that cost for the good of the students.

While Richardson noted that if the plan "asked for a Ferrari" in terms of technology, budgets couldn't fit that request, he said a technology plan should outline what is needed in terms of technology first, and costs second.

The school has had a difficult time getting technology budgets past the

continued on page 7



WILD & WACKY Students at Hampstead Central School had a chance to go wild with their attire last week as they celebrated "Wacky Wednesday." First graders show off their crazy clothes with "Grammy" Claire Hannon and second grade teacher Adam Hathaway, who shaved off half his beard. From left are Sophia Phaneuf, Ronald MacDonald, Noelle Dinsmore and Kaileigh McMeniman.

Photo by Chris Paul

Joseph Gauthier Receives Hampstead Boston Post Cane

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Board of Selectmen awarded the Town of Hampstead's Boston Post Cane to Joseph Gauthier, 95, on Monday night.

Gauthier attended the meeting with his daughter and extended family. Also attending the presentation was Maurice Randall, chair-

man of the Hampstead Historic District Heritage Commission and the Town's official historian. The commission coordinated the search for the cane's recipient.

The Boston Post Cane is awarded to the oldest Hampstead resident who applies for it. The tradition began in 1909 when Boston Post publisher Edward Grozier forwarded to 431 towns in New England what

is known as the Boston Post Cane. The head of the cane is 14-karat gold, with the words, "Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of Hampstead – to be transmitted."

The cane presented to Gauthier is a replica of the original Hampstead Boston Post Cane. The original was returned to Hampstead in 1974 and was retired at that

continued on page 8

Dog Sounds Alarm in Chester House Fire Sunday

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – While the house at 10 Fremont Road Extension was rendered unlivable because of a fire that tore through it early Sunday morning, the residents have their lives, in part thanks to their dog.

The fire department was called to the residence about 4:45 a.m. after the couple who lives there called 911. According to fire chief Rich Antoine, the fire started near the basement electrical panel when a wire there overheated. Antoine explained that the old wire was probably crimped by a

staple, and with several loads of laundry done that evening and the well pump kicking on and off, resistance and heat built up.

He suspected the fire had been burning for hours.

Antoine said though the fire alarms inside the house were sounding, the people were behind a door with a fan on and were not awakened - at least until their dog began to bark a warning.

Chester responded with about a dozen volunteers, two engines, the tanker and utility truck but received aid from seven surrounding communities. A second alarm was called.

During the fight, one of

the firefighters first into the home suffered second degree burns. Lt. Phil Gladu, who is also the town's emergency management director, entered the front door to begin getting water to the flames, but the hot water and steam resulting from that attack ended up coming back on him and soaked through his collar and burned his neck. He was transported to Parkland Medical Center in Derry for evaluation, but was back in the station Monday morning getting paperwork done.

The Red Cross responded to the fire, and housed the residents in a hotel.

The ranch home on Fre-



Firefighters battle a blaze at 10 Fremont Road Extension in Chester early Sunday morning. *Courtesy photo*

mont Road Extension is listed as owned by Catherine

and Timothy Payson. The house, without accompany-

ing land, was appraised at \$91,500

Chester Voters May Decide on Lighting Wason Pond Bridge

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Voters may have the decision at Town Meeting this year on whether to illuminate the bridge that spans the dam at Wason Pond.

On Thursday, March 8, Wason Pond Commission member Brad Wamsley met with the board of selectmen to inform them of discussions about the bridge and to present a bid received for the work. He presented a bid not to exceed \$4,950 to

run the trenching and cables that would allow for spotlights on and internal lighting of the structure.

Wamsley said the main impetus behind putting up lights was security. The fear, said Wamsley, is that someone might damage or vandalize the bridge and that lights would hopefully discourage the behavior.

He added, however, that

the lights could have a positive aesthetic value as well.

While selectman Mike Weider suggested the highway department take on the ditching work required, selectman Jack Cannon took an entirely different tack.

"It's so beautiful," said Cannon of the handmade timber framed bridge. "I love how it's so undis-

turbed. The point of the construction was a natural process, and I don't know how I feel about (lighting the bridge up)."

Cannon said that as it was, the bridge looked perfect, and that waning or waxing natural light lent a substance to the structure.

Wamsley said that in the past, when Wason Pond was privately owned and known

as Silver Sands Campground, the dam's waterfall was historically lit, and it presented a pretty picture, especially in the winter months when the water began to freeze.

The board decided to write up a warrant article for the effort to allow public input.

"It's their bridge," said Cannon. "Let them decide."

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Highway Workers Note Problems with Fuel Purchases

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Highway department workers Andy Higham and Peter Broom met with the board of selectmen to obtain clarification on a new practice for buying fuel instituted by the board earlier this year.

The board had discussed the potential for employees to purchase fuel at state Department of Transportation (DOT) sheds to save on fuel taxes, but highway

workers were confused about how they were supposed to go about doing it once the decision was put into practice.

Higham explained at the board's Thursday, March 8, meeting what the process has been, and noted confusion not only about where gas and diesel ought to be purchased, but who signed him up for his own DOT gas card. He explained that he and Broom tried to go through the motions of obtaining fuel at the Chester

DOT shed, but ran into several glitches, from finding out his DOT card didn't work there to trying to get questions answered.

The Chester DOT shed doesn't have gasoline, only diesel, so there were further questions on whether to continue past practice or find that product elsewhere.

Higham said everyone wanted to save money, but suggested that better communication should take place with those with the boots on the ground. He

added that the selectmen were in charge, but that the employees were an extension of them.

Higham asked whether the board had asked road agent Mike Oleson about the new practice, and chair Steph Landau said it had not, and the board had no intention of doing so.

"It's our job to handle the finances and we tried to handle it properly, but you apparently didn't hear it," said Landau, adding that all departments were informed of the change. He added that anyone can call him at any time with questions.

The fire department and police department use fuel tanks at the fire station.

Selectman Mike Weider had similar comments, but in his reckoning, Oleson knew all about the change. Weider said the board had told Oleson about the decision and that he was at the meeting when the matter was decided. Weider said it

was a concern to him that the information wasn't relayed.

Oleson, contacted after the meeting, had no recollection of a definite answer on a change to the fuel protocol and said he was not at any meeting where that was decided.

"I was never involved," said Oleson. "They never spoke with me, and I always give direction to my crew."

Oleson added that he wasn't upset about the practice, but that it had left questions unanswered.

While there was a public discussion during a selectmen's meeting on the potential to use state fuel, the announcement of the decision was made quickly at a subsequent meeting.

Oleson expressed disagreement with the practice, as it is more difficult for him to track employee time and fuel costs with the state, but said if that was the board's decision, that was fine. He

has also asked the selectmen for approval to install a skid tank at the highway garage, in part to cover fuel during emergencies, as currently Oleson's company, MLM Construction, is providing fuel for the town during such events.

Landau noted the cost of installing a tank at the highway garage as reason not to do so.

During last week's meeting, Landau quickly estimated that the amount the town had already saved through the state was \$400, but the actual savings is smaller. The town has purchased about 200 gallons of diesel with the state, at a savings of about 40 cents per gallon.

Not only does the state not pay taxes on its fuel, it also locks in fuel rates for three months at a time. It's a practice that could save additional money when rates are climbing, but the opposite is also possible when rates are dropping.

School Bus Nicked by Trailer

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – While delivering Hampstead Middle School students to their homes, a Hampstead school bus was nicked by a trailer being pulled by a pick-up truck.

The incident happened at 3:54 p.m. Friday at the intersection of Routes 121A and 111. Hampstead Police Offi-

cer Matt Moore responded and asked for Hampstead Rescue at the scene to check out the students.

According to Hampstead Police Lt. John Frazier, Moore said a trailer being pulled by a pick-up truck struck a passing blow to the passenger side mirror of the bus and continued south on 121A. The bus was waiting to make a left turn to continue east on Route 111.

Moore said the truck didn't stop but the contact was made by the trailer, and the truck driver may not have known he had nicked the bus.

Hampstead Rescue personnel checked out the four middle school students on the bus, determining that there had been no injuries to them or to the bus driver, and the bus continued on its route.

Filing Period Opens for Town Election

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - While voting for Chester's school district was completed this week, the town side of things is ramping up. As one of the first steps in that process, the filing period for open seats begins on March 21.

Fifteen town positions are open this election cycle.

Two three-year term selectmen positions are up, currently held by Jack Cannon and Joe Castricone.

Five budget committee

positions are open, with three of them for three-year terms and two for two years. Those positions are currently held by chair Rhonda Lamphere, Chris Hadik, Chuck Heuer, Michael Branley and Gary Chesney.

Michael Scott's moderator term is up as well.

Two trustees of the trust fund seats are open, one a two-year term and one a three-year, currently held by Colin Costine and Lorna Hazelton.

Two library trusteeships are up, held by Mary Beth

Ditoro and Barbara Cannon.

Also open are a Great Hill Cemetery trustee seat, currently held by Joanne Millsaps; a Village Cemetery trustee seat, currently held by Mark Sanborn; and a Trustee of the Wilcomb Townsend Trust seat, currently held by Lisa Oleson.

The filing period runs from March 21 until March 30 at 5 p.m.

To sign up or for questions, contact town clerk Barbara Gagnon at 887-3636.

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Editorial

All in This Together

It's human nature to focus on what's in front of us, in this case, what the town where we live is doing or not doing.

That makes sense - what our town government does has a clear and direct impact on our tax bill and our quality of life.

But we don't live in a vacuum. What happens in our town is impacted by what happens in neighboring towns. What ends up in the river above us, what is built just over the town line - those are the kinds of things that can have a major impact on our quality of life, even though we don't have a direct say.

But often we can have one.

The Manchester Boston Regional Airport that is mostly in Londonderry plays a major role in the northern part of town. In Manchester, the area around the airport is being talked about as a site for a prison. And a prison so close to the Londonderry town line should clearly be of interest to Londonderry officials.

Last week's Londonderry Times article about that possibility resulted in less than sterling responses from local officials. While a Manchester alderman is advocating for his constituents in opposing it, little is being discussed in Londonderry. Granted, no solid proposal has been presented, but if one were to go before Manchester's land

use board, we would expect it to be declared a "development of regional interest" per RSA 36:54, in other words a project likely to have "impacts beyond the boundaries of a single municipality." Londonderry should be prepared for that eventuality.

The immense size of the Woodmont Commons development in Londonderry is another example of a proposal of regional interest, this time to Derry. And while Derry officials are well aware of the plan, much of the focus of economic development in Derry is the same old story that has been tried repeatedly for years, centering on Route 102 downtown. A major development like Woodmont, just over the town line and just off 102, begs for a new look at what Derry could do to boost its economy, instead of falling back on the same old, same old.

A final example. The Mottolo pig farm Superfund site in Raymond could impact residential wells over the town line in Chester. Under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supervision, Chester selectmen and neighboring residents have been kept informed of meetings and developments. That's the way things should work.

So while our focus of necessity is on what our own town is doing, it makes sense to pay attention to what our neighbors are planning as well. Right from the start.

Letters

Elderly Exemption

To the editor:

In response to the letter of Ralph Millard from Sandown regarding Deliberative Session, I offer the following:

Mr. Millard overlooks that although I am the recreation director for the town, I am also a voter and Sandown taxpayer, as I have been for more than 30 years.

Being a town employee doesn't mean giving up your right to vote or participate in decisions that affect your town. That right is afforded to me by the Constitution, and in the very words Mr. Millard writes regarding the sacrifices that have been made by many that allow all of us the right to our votes. Many town employees, indeed most, are resident taxpayers and voters.

Town employees care greatly about how tax dollars are spent since they are our tax dollars too. Mr. Millard insinuates I am "cruel and insensitive" where our seniors are concerned. Nothing could be further from the truth, as those who know me understand well. I certainly don't oppose the elderly exemption, quite the opposite. My first words in speaking to his article were, "I support the elderly exemption and I'm glad we have it." Subsequently, I opposed his warrant article to change it.

Sandown allows generous limits for this exemption, some of the most generous in the state. A married senior couple with annual income up to \$70,000 and with \$200,000 in assets (not including their Sandown home) qualifies.

You only need to be 65 and live in town for three years to apply. With the growing number of over 55 housing, that's something to take into consideration before increasing amounts

again.

In 2011, the town granted some \$160,000 in waived taxes for the elderly. That is a good thing. No such exemption exists for the young family who may earn far less than \$70K and no \$200K in assets. They struggle, but there is no tax break for them. Yet they and others make up the difference when exemptions are granted. Mr. Millard's proposal would boost exemptions to nearly \$200K every year.

I objected to Mr. Millard's son and fellow budget committee member, Robert Millard, stating the people who were in attendance shouldn't be "dictating" to voters not present. I said those present had chosen to be there, just as those not present had the choice to not be there. That is what a democracy allows us. It also allows us to follow prescribed rules for what can and can't happen at such meetings. Just because you don't like the outcome doesn't mean you cry foul or cost the taxpayers money by suing to try and get 'your way,' which is what Mr. Millard has threatened. A better solution might be to work together to try and find a private way to help those seniors who need help with their taxes. No senior should fear losing their home.

Go to work on a plan like that, Mr. Millard, and I will surely help you. I'm willing to bet others would too.

Deb Brown
Sandown

Sex Offender Protection

To the editor:

So now we see exactly what was expected; that live, human victims are now coming forward with claims of sexual abuse by the convicted and career sex offender Gary Britton.

In 2011, I asked that the Chester Board of Selectmen publicly review procedures either used or lacking in al-

lowing Mr. Britton free, ample and frequent access to the town's children. I was particularly interested in reviewing how and why a convicted sex offender was hired to perform work within the purview of Recreation, how and why town officials were not aware of the well-known sex offender status of Mr. Britton, and why the BOS did not even bother to check the town's own website for offenders.

After Britton was arrested yet again in Chester for child pornography and weapons charges, the BOS promised that no children were ever at risk and that nothing further needed to be done regarding the case. Furthermore, the BOS offered the public Q&A sessions surrounding the case.

I and at least one other resident requested Q&A review of issues of concern such as Britton's premier role in the Chester Town Fair for many years as a known offender. My concern was that procedures needed review. However, the BOS refused any such review and even refused me an agenda slot at a scheduled meeting. Again, my concern was about procedure. The BOS insisted that all Britton matters were in the purview of the Chester Police, and washed their hands of the matter.

I contend that the BOS behavior and their lack of due diligence on their part put this town's children at significant risk. And exactly as I predicted, live victims are emerging.

Rob Brown
Chester

Editor's note: The author is not the former Chester selectman of the same name.

Iowa Student Seeks Souvenirs

To the editor:

Dear Readers: Hi! My name is Taryn M. I am a fifth grade student at Harlan Intermediate School in Har-



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House Vote Kills Pinkerton Property Tax Bill

KAITLYN G. WOODS
Tri-Town Times

The New Hampshire House voted down a bill that would allow municipalities to assess property taxes on

public academies last week.

After considering the merits of HB 1201, which would have allowed municipalities "to assess property taxes on public academies in certain instances," the

Municipal and County Government Committee voted 17-0 on Feb. 14 that the bill was "inexpedient to legislate." The full House then effectively killed the bill, sponsored by State Rep.

Frank Sapareto, R-Derry, with a March 7 voice vote in favor of the Municipal and County Government Committee's recommendation as part of the motion for bills on the consent calendar.

"We are glad for the residents of Derry, Hampstead, Chester and Auburn that the New Hampshire House agrees with many town officials, local state representatives and the Municipal and County Government Committee," said Pinkerton Academy Headmaster Mary Anderson, who testified against the bill at a Feb. 9 public hearing of the committee.

Sapareto, who was a member of the Derry Taxpayers Alliance for 10 years, said he was asking that the Derry taxpayers only be required to pay their fair share for Pinkerton Academy services.

In a Feb. 7 presentation to the Derry Town Council, Sapareto said the roughly 1,000 Pinkerton students from towns outside Derry utilize services their communities should be held financially accountable for - namely fire services and Pinkerton's school resource officer, whose salary is paid by the Town of Derry.

"The taxpayers of Derry shouldn't have to pay for services used by other towns," he said.

But Anderson, who also spoke against the bill at that same Council meeting, said HB1201 would result in a steep tuition hike, as much as \$600 to \$900 per student.

"That could have the unintended consequence of making tuition so high that other towns could choose to leave Pinkerton. That would further drive up

tuition and perhaps leave Derry to bear all tuition costs," she said.

It was that, and other unintended consequences of HB1201, that caused greatest concern to opponents of the legislation.

Those who advocated against the bill also argued the legislation would set an undesirable precedent of taxing non-profit institutions, such as church schools, the state colleges' holdings, and hospitals.

"I am very satisfied (HB1201) was defeated by committee and especially the House," Derry School Board Chair Kevin Gordon wrote in an email. "I know we as a board did not support this, as this was not a bill that had the best interest for the taxpayers of our community."

Fire Department Receives Grant

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - The Chester fire department has received another grant, and at an award of approximately \$41,000, it's their largest this year. The sum will go toward buying vehicle extrication equipment, the items that cut, split and otherwise open up cars that have been in serious enough accidents to crush their doors.

The award was approved last week through the 2011 Federal Assistance to Fire-

fighters Grant. It's the result of a cooperation between former town grant writer Erin Newnan, Fire Chief Rich Antoine and Lt. Kevin Wunderly. The department has written for this particular grant a number of times.

New equipment will replace its more than 20-year-old counterparts, which currently are on the rescue truck. The older equipment will be refurbished and installed on one of the department's engines.

Antoine said that next month he'll have various

manufacturers come to the fire department with equipment and cars so that firefighters and rescue personnel can try out different brands. Antoine noted that rather than decide by himself which is the best piece for the department, he'll have everybody try them out and give him input on what's best.

The Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is run through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Letters

continued from page 4

lan, Iowa. My class is studying the history and geography of the United States.

I'm so happy that I chose New Hampshire as my state. It's a very beautiful state!

I would appreciate it if you would send me a state map, a souvenir, or any information about the state of New Hampshire. My teacher, Mrs. Newlin, would like a car license plate for a

school project if possible. I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Taryn M.
Mrs. Della Newlin's
Social Studies Class
Harlan Intermediate
School, 1401 19th St.
Harlan, Iowa 51537

Student Help Needed

To the editor:

Hello. My name is TJ Ruiz. I go to Napa Valley Language Academy in California.

The reason I am writing

to you is because our class is doing state reports and I have chosen your fantastic state, New Hampshire.

I would really appreciate it if you posted my letter in your newspaper so I can get all the help I need for my report. What I need from your readers are pamphlets, postcards, souvenirs, a letter or anything else. That would be wonderful.

TJ Ruiz
Napa Valley Language
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Zoning Board Grants Approvals to Five Requests

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – After its last meeting was postponed because of snow, the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) had a full agenda, and all five hearing requests were unanimously approved.

Fresh Water Farms owner Chuck Morse was represented at the Thursday, March 8, meeting by Attorney Bernard Campbell of Campbell & Beaumont in Salem, in a request for a special exception to permit a freestanding sign that would be taller and larger than what is allowed in the residential zone at the farm's location, and for a variance to allow the sign to be internally lighted.

Fresh Water Farm is a commercial venture located partly in a residential zone because of the configuration of the land. The property is also partly in Atkinson. The sign sought would be lower

than the existing sign, and the board said it liked the design and had no issues with the height or size before approving the request.

The board spent more time discussing the sign being internally lit, but after putting it in the approval that it would not be a flashing or video type sign or change pictures any faster than every 10 seconds, the board approved the variance.

Robert and Arlene Trask received unanimous approval of their request to tear down two existing structures and rebuild a single story and a half structure at 191 Mills Shore Drive. The board thanked the Trasks for the transparency of their efforts, their work with abutters and the completeness of their plans and permits. The new dwelling will remain seasonal, but Trask said their intention is to return to the board in the future and seek year round conver-

sion for the new dwelling.

Walton and Sandra Skeete sought conversion of their house at 25 Harris Ave., from a seasonal dwelling. They told the ZBA they thought the house was a year round dwelling, and sought conversion to correct the matter. They said they plan to upgrade the septic, add insulation, bring the electrical up to code and meet any other requirements set forth by Building Inspector Kris Emerson.

The couple is living in a single room at a friend's home until they can upgrade the dwelling from seasonal to year round, even though the former owners lived in it year round.

The board gave conditional approval for conversion, subject to completing Emerson's list of requirements, but the couple cannot get a permit of occupancy until they meet those requirements. The house will become a year round dwell-

ing as soon as they receive the occupancy permit.

Cindy Travers was granted approval to open a dog daycare on property owned by Roland and Cecile Gosselin at 45A

Danville Road. The Gosselins signed off on allowing Travers to lease the property for this purpose. The only stipulation was that a secure fence be put in place around the back yard area to con-

tain the dogs when outside. The board gave it unanimous approval.

James Mize of 21 Orcutt Drive was approved to add a dormer and second bathroom to his dwelling.

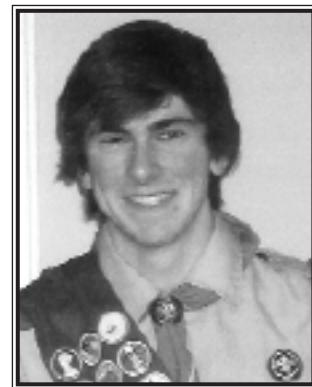
Hampstead VFW Nominates Boy Scout of the Year

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11254 announces its local nomination for Scout of the Year, Ryan Guest.

Post Commander Howie Steadman said that in addition to having received the Eagle Scout award, Ryan had to demonstrate practical citizenship in school, scouting, and the community. Ryan is a senior at Pinkerton Academy and is a member of Hampstead Troop 33.

Steadman said he is forwarding Ryan's application package to the District level for judging. The District winner then goes on to



Ryan Guest

competition at the Department (State) level, and that winner will represent New Hampshire in the national competition for a \$5,000 scholarship.

"Ryan is an exceptional candidate, and we are confi-

dent he will do well at the higher level competitions," said Steadman.

Ryan is the son of Kim and Bill Guest of Hampstead. His Eagle Scout project was the development of a trail system through swampy land acquired by the Hampstead Conservation Commission. He has also been involved in community and humanitarian projects.

Ryan was named as a Samsung American Legion Scholarship National Finalist in July 2011 on the basis of his academic accomplishments and his school and community involvement. He is ranked in the top 3 percent of his class at Pinkerton, where he is in the National Honor Society, on the varsity Math Team, on the Destination Imagination Team and serves as a Class Officer. In the community, his involvements include Hampstead Civic Club Soccer Team, Hampstead Congregational Church Senior High Youth Group, and Manchester Red Cross Youth Board.

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Chester Academy Hopes to Move Kindergarten into Main Building

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – The Chester Academy public kindergarten program may be moving from its current location into the main school building if a plan forwarded to the school board by administration is approved.

Interim superintendent Jim Gaylord raised the issue at the school board's March

7 meeting. Gaylord said that coupled with concerns about having students in an out-building, dropping enrollment numbers facilitated a look at bringing the youngest students at the school inside.

With state aid, Chester brought in portable classrooms when it instituted a public kindergarten program in 2010. While there was a space inside the

school being used for a smaller, specialized kindergarten program that could have been combined with another room, climbing enrollments at that time led administrators to deem it best to bring in the two separate classrooms for the program.

Since then, enrollment numbers have shifted and the plan now is to use the rooms originally intended

for kindergarten. Principal Leslie Leahy said the rooms are well suited to the age group and both have their own bathroom.

They have similar square footage to the portable classrooms, an attached playground, and better evacuation routes in the event of an emergency.

Leahy said safety was the main driver of the plan, adding that while the school

does its best to keep all children safe, having a classroom outside in the back of the school could cause issues. She said that having the kindergarteners inside would reduce the ability for a parent to bypass the front office to pick up their child.

A cost estimate should be nailed down by the next board meeting, said Gaylord, but rough estimates put the job of converting

the rooms at \$5,000. Making that shift easier is that walls erected in the room vacated by the kindergarten program are soft and more easily removed.

The School Administrative Unit (SAU) office would move into the portable classroom space out back.

If the work is approved, it would likely take place this summer.

Technology

continued from page 1

budget committee in recent years, and Leahy referred to that issue, stating that in the past, when technology numbers showed significant increases, they were cut past flat. The idea was that a fixed 3 percent increase in the next couple of years would at least prevent the line from being a target for further cuts.

The first chapter explains some of the difficulty Chester and other school districts

are facing. That chapter illustrates the changing nature of the technology world and how the "vertically integrated approach," which initially prompted wide scale use of email and computer networks, has given way to "the rapid industrialization of information technology in the academic sector." This shift, the report reads, has "Chester Academy's technology department

struggling to maintain up-to-date services, leaving little resource, time, or energy for the deep application of rapidly emerging technologies at the core activities of the school."

The board and administration also discussed the appropriateness of potentially allowing kids to use their personal computer devices in class in a directed way.

It's a discussion the tech-

nology committee has been having, and Leahy said the administration's plan was to take it slowly and do its best to manage devices in a way that allows kids and teachers the benefits of new technology while harnessing the negative aspects.

In other board business at the Wednesday, March 7, meeting:

- The cost of a carton of milk at Chester Academy will be going up by 10 cents, according to a school board

decision prompted by a revenue/expense gap in the food service program this year.

Cartons will go from 40 cents to 50 cents.

Financial manager Annmarie Scribner initially alerted the board to the shortfall at its February monthly meeting and brought up the matter again in March as part of her monthly financial forecast.

The current shortfall totals about \$6,300, she said.

Scribner said plans were

being created to manage the gap until the end of the year.

- Also going up will be the cost of food for adults at the school, which started Monday, March 12.

Superintendent Jim Gaylord said the administration did not want to raise the cost of food for students this year and would rather that decision be one made for next fall. He noted the lengthy period of time since milk costs were last raised and how delivery costs are up.

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*U.S. Department of Labor, Career Guide to Industries, 2010-11 Edition

Sandown Central Student Council Visits Retirees



Fox Den Retirement Community resident Norman E. Raymond dances with a group of Sandown Central School's student councilors during the group's annual visit to entertain and converse with residents. Next to Raymond is Kaitlynn Mazur.

Photo by Matt Rittenhouse

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – Central School's student council spent a recent morning with the residents of Fox Den Retirement Community, something the council makes sure to do at least once a year.

Led by guidance counselor Diane LaRose, who has been bringing the council to Fox Den for about 15 years, and enrichment teacher David Ciarla, the 17 kids arrived a little before 10 a.m. Thursday, March 8, and were soon entertaining the residents with a talent show. The kids danced, played instruments and put on a short scene from a play, all to the great enjoyment of the residents.

From solo flute performances from both Phoebe West-Geary and Emily Augusta, to a couple of graceful Irish step dances from Kaitlynn Mazur, to a scene from a play by Olivia Wunderli and Kyle Errico, which had both students and adults laughing, the morning had its share of entertainment.

And in what is becoming a tradition of the visit, the kids rounded off the entertainment with a short dance party with gregarious resident Norman E. Raymond.

After the kids finished showing off their skills, they took time to introduce themselves to residents and mingle with the crowd. The smiles on the residents' faces made it clear that they enjoyed the visit. It's something

they look forward to all year.

Residents said they were happy to see what the kids were learning in school and had words of praise for the young peoples' talents. The kids also said they enjoyed the visit.

One of the many values of the visit from Fox Den's perspective is that it allows the residents to remember their childhood.

Angie DiDanato said the musical performances reminded her of her older brother, a drummer who played from the time he was just a kid until he retired. She told stories of how she and her mother had to put up with all the banging, even though he was talented. And she encouraged the kids to keep with their music.

Post Cane

continued from page 1

time; it is kept in the Historic Museum. The most recent Boston Post Cane holder was Frances Munroe, the first recipient of the renewed tradition in 2006, who recently died. Her family returned the replica cane to the town.

In other business at

Monday night's meeting:

- Road Agent Jon Worthen asked the board to waive the bid process for grinding a small section of East Road, the only planned roadwork for the coming year. He explained that last year's contract was with Busby Construction, which has offered to hold the line on last year's price for labor and materials for the work this year. The cost would be

roughly \$9,000, and bids are required unless waived for anything over \$5,000.

"This is a good deal," Worthen said. "If it were to go out to bid, it would be at least this and probably quite a bit more."

The board unanimously approved awarding the grinding contract to Busby for the East Road work without going out to bid.

- Selectmen's Administrative Assistant Sally Theriault presented the board with a newly updated job description for a clerk - level 2 p that would be a

grade four position. This is for a clerk who has greater flexibility and whose responsibilities are greater because of working in several other departments. The board unanimously accepted the new job description.

Nancy Vitale has been working in the Town Clerk's Office as well as in the Planning Board Office and learning the duties and procedures of the financial requirements of the clerk in the Selectmen's Office. This new job description fits her increased responsibilities and job requirements.



Joseph Gauthier, 95, holds the Hampstead Boston Post Cane presented to him Monday night by the Board of Selectmen. With Gauthier is his daughter, Linda Ross, with whom Gauthier lives. Photo by Penny Williams



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Junior Honor Society Helps Fight Hunger at Home

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Youngsters in relatively affluent communities such as Hampstead don't often meet hunger face to face. A parent of a Hampstead Middle School National Junior Honor Society member recently suggested that a good service project for the group would be to do something addressing hunger.

Society mentor Sarah Arsenault said the students debated on how they might be able to benefit hunger at the local level.

"We discussed it and

then decided to adopt the idea," she said. "We decided on serving a simple luncheon and inviting the general public to participate...and use the proceeds to benefit the local food pantry."

The students developed what they called Hunger at Home. By involving their families, they were able to get all the food for the meal donated. The menu featured assorted soups, breads, desserts and a drink, all for \$5. The event was open to the public on Saturday, March 10, from noon to 2 p.m., and included a slideshow that highlighted hunger and gave data on



Members of the Hampstead Middle School National Junior Honor Society held a Hunger at Home soup and bread luncheon at the school Saturday, March 10, with members' families donating soups, breads, desserts and soda and the public paying \$5 for the meal. The proceeds go to St. Anne's Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Photo by Penny Williams

hunger in New Hampshire.

Junior Honor Society students with signs were at the intersection of School and Main Streets, welcoming passersby to participate in the Hunger at Home luncheon. In the cafeteria, the serving table groaned under assorted slow cookers filled with a variety of soups, ranging from sausage to clam chowder. Plates of breads and muffins sat side by side with platters of brownies, cookies, cakes and pastries. Junior Honor Society members served the patrons, and others collected money at the door and checked the tables where

diners were seated to make sure people had everything they needed.

Jake Hudgins, one of the 34 eighth grade Junior Honor Society members, said, "I am doing this because it is a great cause. I really believe in working to stop hunger in New Hampshire and across the United States. I really like being a part of something that is bigger than me."

The proceeds, which totaled \$277, will be donated to the St. Anne's Ecumenical Food Pantry, which serves the Hampstead area.

The event attracted 50 people.

Sandown Central Pitches in Pennies to Fight Cancer

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – In the three weeks before the February vacation, the community at Sandown Central School collected spare change to help persons with leukemia.

And they were very successful for a small school comprised of just the fourth and fifth grades, with the kids collecting \$1,035.89.

The collection benefits Pennies for Patients, a national program run by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as an effort to galvanize youth in the fight against debilitating blood cancers.

New school nurse Mary

Hatton spearheaded the collection in Sandown, and had nothing but praise for the kids' efforts and selflessness.

"They did such a phenomenal job," she said. "I'm just blown away by their generosity."

In the first two weeks of the campaign, the school had generated nearly \$700 by simply dropping a few coins at a time in small cardboard boxes in the classrooms.

Elizabeth Conte's fourth grade classroom ended up raising more money than any other, and while there was the added benefit of a party for the most successful classroom, the kids made it clear that the



Elizabeth Conte's fourth grade class helped Central School raise more than a \$1000 in its participation in The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients fundraiser.

Photo by Matt Rittenhouse

reward was secondary to the greater good of aiding those who need it most.

The fundraiser had the

and neighbors to help their class. The classroom donated \$296.11.

Student Brianna Brown said it was important to take part because "people should be able to have a normal life," and donating to the cause helped them do just that.

Other kids had personal stories of members of their families who succumbed to the disease.

Emily Beaudet said they took part because, "We really wanted to help."

They knew where the money was going and how it would not only add to the funds aimed at finding cures, but would also help

defray extra costs incumbent with a battle against cancer, such as lodging a family near a hospital.

"It's been such a gift to me, seeing the looks on these kids' faces. It's a joy. They feel really good about themselves because they know they're helping others," said Hatton.

The kids in Conte's class spoke for the whole school when asked whether they'd take part in Pennies for Patients again.

The students even suggested holding similar fundraisers for other worthwhile efforts.

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Chester Academy's Art Teacher Exhibits Her Work

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – More often than not, art teachers aren't only interested in the art they help their students make, but are creators in their own right, and this month and next, everyone will have a chance to see the work Chester Academy's art teacher produces.

From March 5 until April 26, Lisa Blanchette will be exhibiting her art at the New Hampshire Audubon Center, located on the shores of Lake Massabesic in Auburn. Most of the work she's showing was created in the last couple of

years and in a medium that helped rekindle her love of painting the world around her.

For years Blanchette worked exclusively in oils, but she notes in her artist's statement for the show that experimenting with watercolors and pastels opened up a new world of inspiration, one she suspects will keep her busy for the foreseeable future - when she's not busy kindling a love for art in her young charges.

"I am inspired by the beauty of my surroundings," she said. "A single tree, flowers, water, even a portion of a building (often integrated with nature) can

be a powerful source of inspiration."

She adds that while working on Nantucket Island a couple years back, she realized again her love of painting "en plein air," or outdoors. Her show is a testament to a love of nature and the scenes it presents to those who take the time to look.

While Blanchette's subject matter ranges from trees spreading their branches in a field to an expansive salt marsh to trellised roses, each piece not only seeks to recreate what she sees, but also to work as an independent aesthetic object.

Blanchette has her mas-

ter's degree in painting and has been teaching in Chester for the past 10 years. For Blanchette, who now teaches art to grades three through eight, the time and effort she puts into painting supports that other part of her artistic life.

"Teaching is just as important to me as creating my own artwork," she said. "As an art teacher, I feel that it is imperative for me to keep a strong commitment to my art. I truly believe that it makes me a better teacher."

For more information on the exhibit, visit www.nhaidubon.org.



This painting is by Chester Academy art teacher Lisa Blanchette, whose work is on exhibit at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn. *Courtesy photo*

Read Across America Week Takes Over Chester Academy

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – In one of the many events during Chester Academy's participation in Read Across America Week, Robin Glynn's eighth grade Spanish class got together with Jill Duhaime's second graders for bilingual storytelling.

The group of 'big kids' arrived in Duhaime's class after lunch, and pairs of them sat down with pairs of second graders to read. Both young and older had the same book, and the Spanish students read a page in Spanish, followed by the younger kids reading in English.

It was a successful combi-

nation, as the eighth graders took their younger counterparts under their wings, not only reading and listening well, but teaching them a little Spanish.

While an older student or two usually visits Duhaime's room to read a story to her students, she suggested that this year she and Glynn could take the process further.

"The big kids are really watching out for them," said Duhaime, pointing out the gentle posture and tone all of the eighth graders seemed to immediately adopt around the second graders.

Glynn said the time presented a wonderful opportunity for her students to demonstrate their Spanish

skills while working with the younger kids, whom they might inspire to take Spanish. At least one second grade boy that afternoon asked whether Spanish was easy to master.

All of the eighth graders volunteered to visit the class. Both the young kids and the big kids said they enjoyed their time together.

Eighth grader Sarah Costello said the experience was fun. She added that the girls she read to, Sarah Iller and Carlie Panas, managed to read an entire page of Spanish. Costello guessed the youngsters would likely be star pupils.

The cooperation in Duhaime's class was just one of many events taking place



Eighth grade Spanish students Gillian Gould and Victoria Harding read to second graders in Jill Duhaime's class during Read Across America Week.

across the school last week. The paraprofessionals, led by head organizer Estelle Cripps, put together an involved week for the kids. The main draw is that readers from within and outside the school visit classes all week to read to students. It allows community members to share some of their favorite works with kids who not only get a chance to sit back for awhile and hear a good story, but to see that the adults around them love to read and don't just do it for school or work.

The National Education Association's Read Across

America Week is an annual event, meant to motivate and bring awareness to reading. The program seeks to have every child in every community celebrate reading for Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2.

Chester makes it a week-long celebration.

Teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators all noted how the students looked forward to the week, and how it benefited their opinion of reading in general.

The celebration is also spotted with related trivia and prizes for correct answers. Plus, the Cat in the Hat made a special visit to the

school and the chorus sang Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss.

Media specialist Susan Warnke, who scheduled the readers in classrooms, said students like the idea of seeing the adults in their lives sharing their favorite books.

Duhaime added that while her kids looked forward to the week, in part because of the rewards, she noted a definite uptick in interest in reading, especially in Dr. Seuss's catalogue.

It's a lot of work to put the event together, but the paraprofessionals have been doing it for years. Lead organizer Cripps said many school staff, Parent Teacher Association members and parent volunteers worked hard to make the event a success. Support is needed for everything from baking enough cupcakes to feed every student to getting donated prizes from local businesses. And Kohl's in Plaistow donated 320 books.

"It went really great this year," said Cripps, noting the overwhelming participation from both kids and adults to make it a success. "The kids love it. They get so excited."

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Hampstead Central School Hosts Full Week of Read Across America

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Hampstead Central School participated in a full week of Read Across America activities and events, beginning with Monday, March 5, as “Cat in the Hat Day,” celebrating Dr. Seuss.

The National Education Association and its affiliates created this event to promote daily reading at home. The nationwide celebration takes place annually around March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the children’s author who represents all the aspects of loving to learn.

Sheila Nolan, reading specialist at Central School, encourages reading at home, noting that research confirms that children who read at home do better at school. Read Across America Week is a motivator for reading, she said.

Guests stopped in at Central School throughout the week to visit the school’s classrooms and read a book to the students. On Tuesday, March 6, activities began with Zoe Demers and K.C. Chocala reading the Reader’s Oath over the in-school loudspeaker system. The other students and their teachers joined in, as each

had received a bookmark bearing the oath.

Immediately following the announcement, students in all the classrooms took part in Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.).

The week also included a variety of dress-up opportunities: Wacky Wednesday; Thursday, March 8, as Crazy Socks Day, with a reading of “Fox in Sox” by Dr. Seuss; and World Read Aloud Day – HCS Book Sharing Day on Friday, with students are urged to bring a favorite book to school and to be prepared to tell others why this is a favorite.



KC Chocala and Zoe Demers, third graders at Hampstead Central School, shared the reading of the Reader’s Oath over the school’s loudspeaker to kick off D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) Read Across America activity on Tuesday morning, March 6. Principal Dillard Collins holds the phone for the girls to read the oath.

Photo by Penny Williams

Hampstead Congregational Church Youth Experience 30-Hour Famine

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Never having been hungry makes it difficult for young people to comprehend the extent to which many people endure debilitating hunger in today’s world. To try and make working to end hunger more meaningful, the Hampstead Congregational Church Youth Group has been sponsoring a 30-hour famine annually for more than a decade. This year, one of the young people who participated in an earlier hunger event was back as a leader, adding a special feeling to this year’s endeavor.

Nichol LaFleur, back as an advisor after a number of years, teamed up with Tom Shallow, who had been her advisor, to lead one of the two groups of youngsters who took part in outreach service projects during the 30-hour famine.

The church sponsors this event for a number of reasons, not the least of which is to introduce the youths to hunger, something most of them have never experienced. All the efforts are designed to raise money to help fight hunger, but even more important is acquainting the youths with the realities of hunger, to offer a small look at what people whose lives are dominated by hunger and poverty deal with on a daily basis.

The youths and advisors met at the church at 6 a.m. on a Saturday morning. They started their 30-hour famine, and would subsist on water and juice until lunch after church service the following day. They split into two teams and loaded their supplies into cars, then headed to Lawrence, Mass., where Christian Education Director Nancy Murdock had arranged for the group to prepare and serve breakfast at Lazarus House, a shelter



The Hampstead Congregational Church Youth Group members who participated in the 30-Hour Famine and Service project included: Brandon Power, Lauren Pardue, Lilly Hannah, Gannon Pond, Rhianna Moyer, Stormi Silva, Sami Marcantonio, Mariah Thurston, Brittany

for children and women.

This activity gave the young people a first-hand look at poverty and hunger and a glimpse of how important service projects

such as this one are to the people who depend on places like Lazarus House.

The teams then split up, with one group going to the home of a senior citizen in Londonderry to wash windows, floors, and clean the refrigerator, a visit arranged by Cindee Tanuma, executive director of Community Caregivers of Greater Derry.

The other team went to the JFK Coliseum in Manchester, where they helped distribute food to more than 350 people.

Next on the schedule saw one team going to New Horizons Food Pantry in Manchester to prepare food for dinner. The other team went to the Mall of New

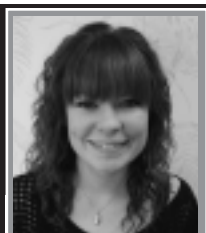
Hampshire for a lesson in waste, as they observed the wasting of food by people eating at the food court.

The teams then reversed, with one visiting the mall for the same exercise in waste, while the other prepared and served dinner at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter.

Back at the church, the students talked about their experience and their reactions to what they had seen and done, enjoyed some fun and fellowship, and slept at the church. On Sunday morning, they shared their experiences with the congregation during the church service, then gathered downstairs to break their fast.

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

Storytimes

Storytimes at Chester Public Library are Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. They are geared for children ages 3 to 5, and Mr. Tim will read stories and teach crafts. The Library is at 3 Chester St., next to the Post Office. For more information, call 887-3404.

Child Find

The Chester School District will hold a Child Find clinic at Chester Academy on March 15, 2012, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The purpose of Child Find is to screen the developmental skills of children between the ages of 3 to 6 (those not enrolled in first grade) who may be in need of special education services. The screenings are completed by school personnel and address motor skills, speech and language, vision, hearing, and pre-academics. If you think your child may have difficulties or a delay in any of these areas, call 887-3621, ext. 146 to set up an appointment. Appointments are required. This service is free and is open to all Chester residents. All results are confidential.

Co-ed Volleyball

Chester Recreation is offering free adult co-ed pickup volleyball on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Chester Multi-purpose room. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 887-5773 or e-mail: sharon@chesternhrec.org

Softball

Chester Softball is looking for softball players ages 7 through 14. Sign up at www.chesternhbaseball.com. Optional practices have already started on Sundays. Email: jfswindows@comcast.net for times.

Corned Beef Dinner

The Chester Congregational & Baptist Church offers a Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Chester Multi-Purpose Room, 84 Chester St. Irish music will be led by Charlie Lindsey with the Third Sunday Fiddlers. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. Proceeds benefit the church. For more information, call the

church office at 887-4799 or email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net.

Baseball, Softball

Chester Baseball and Softball Registration is open for all divisions for the 2012 season. Information about tryouts for AAA, Minors and Majors will be posted at: <http://www.chesternhbaseball.com> and click on the clipboard to register.

Lions Scholarship

The Chester Lions Club will again be presenting a \$1,000 college scholarship to a high school graduate from Chester. Applications may be found in the Guidance Office at Pinkerton Academy. For more information, contact Bruce Baker at 887-4424.

Lenten Study

Chester Congregational & Baptist Church will hold a Lenten Study on Wednesdays through March. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. with a simple fare supper in the Vestry, then continues with the Lenten Study Series until 8 p.m. The series is the "Book of Acts: A God is Still Speaking Bible Study." For more information, call the church office at 887-4799 or email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net. The church is in the center of town at 4 Chester St.

Supervisors of Checklist

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet Tuesday, March 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. at 84 Chester St. for residents to register to vote or change name, address or party. Residents may also register to vote at the Town Clerk's office during her regular business hours, or at the polls on March 13, 2012.

Camp Pride Benefit

The New Hampshire Lions Camp Pride Board of Directors will host Steve Wronker's "Funny Business," a family-oriented comedy/hypnosis show, to benefit Lions Camp Pride in New Durham, a summer camp for individuals with special needs. Showtime is 8 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Elks Lodge, 120 DW Highway South in Nashua.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with a complimentary hot buffet and cash bar. Lions Camp Pride was built and supported by the Lions Clubs of New Hampshire District 44H, which includes the Londonderry, Chester, Hampstead, Sandown, and Atkinson clubs, as well as 32 others. All proceeds from the benefit will go toward camp updates. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be obtained by calling Sam at 329-5603, Jeri at 883-8565, Patty Pedersen at 595-4615, or email: camppride2008@yahoo.com.

Knit Wits

The Knit Wits meets Tuesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., at the junction of Routes 121 and 102. The group of people who like to sew, crochet, knit, and stitch meets every first and third Tuesday of the month for an evening of working on a craft, chatting and learning from others, and sharing knowledge. For more information, call the library at 887-3404.

Book Group

The Chester Public Library Book Group meets Tuesday, March 20, at 1 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 3 Chester St., at the junction of Routes 121 and 102. This month's book is "Bossypants" by Tina Fey. Extra copies of the book are available for Chester Library cardholders to borrow. For more information, call the library at 887-3404.

Newnan Blood Drive

The sixth annual Matthew Newnan Memorial Blood Drive takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 31, in the Chester Academy Cafetorium. Certified babysitters will be at the Kids Korner to entertain children while parents donate blood. Call for an appointment at 1-800-RED-CROSS, and walk-ins are always welcome. All donors will be entered to win a \$50 gas card, and first time donors will get two entries. A raffle to support Children's Hospital of Boston's Matthew's Pages of Gold will

also take place, so stop in whether donating blood or not. For more information, call Erin or Scott Newnan at 887-0532.

HAMPSTEAD

Boxtop Drive

Hampstead Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites the community to join its BoxTops for Education Drive, which provides money to enrich the programs offered to Hampstead Central School and Hampstead Middle School students. Help by clipping boxtops from products and drop them off at collection sites around the community - Hampstead Public Library, Hampstead Central School, and Hampstead Memorial Gym.

Ray Flaherty Athletic Scholarship

The Hampstead Middle School's Athletic Club is offering the Ray Flaherty Athletic Scholarship to a former athlete of Hampstead Middle School who participates in athletics during the senior year at Pinkerton Academy and demonstrates leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship. The \$500 scholarship is named for retired educator and coach Ray Flaherty. Scholarship applications are available at Pinkerton Academy's Guidance Office and on the Hampstead Middle School's website. Completed applications are due by April 10. The award will be presented at the HMS Spring Sports Awards Night in June. For additional information, call HMS Athletic Director Nancy Benson at 329-6743, ext. 204 or Athletic Club President Angie Gorham at 329-7423.

Penny Sale

The annual Penny Sale to benefit the East Hampstead Union Church Operating Fund will be held Saturday, March 31, at the Vic Geary Center, 18 Greenough Road, Plaistow. Buy 25 tickets for \$1 at the Penny Sale table as early as 10 a.m. Doors open at noon to place tickets in the cups for the items desired. Winning tickets are drawn at 7 p.m. Winners must be present during the drawing, and more tick-

ets will be drawn until a winning ticket holder comes forward. The drawing ends at approximately 10 p.m. Over 300 prizes include housewares, dolls, toys, gift certificates and gift items for the whole family and pets. Additional items will be raffled off for \$1 per ticket. Hot dogs, soup, sandwiches, nachos, chips, light desserts and beverages will be available starting at noon. The building is ramp accessible. For more information, call 378-0683 or e-mail: ehuc@comcast.net.

Financial Challenges

The Hampstead Public Library presents Melinda Davis in a program on "The Financial Phases of Life ... Accumulation, Protection, Distribution, and Wealth Transfer" on Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. Discussed will be diversifications, mutual funds and annuities, long term care, and types of insurances, with time for questions. To advise of areas of interest in advance, email librarian Janet Arden at jarden@hampstead.lib.nh.us.

Books for Breakfast

The Hampstead Public Library hosts Books for Breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 17, for a program and free hot meal. This program series is designed to give families an opportunity to spend time together. Craft supplies, books and breakfast foods, with coffee, tea and hot chocolate, will be featured. Everyone who attends will be entered in a raffle.

Democrats

The Hampstead Democrats will meet at 6 p.m. March 22 at the Hampstead Public Library, 9 Mary E. Clark Drive, to elect town Democratic officers and delegates to the New Hampshire Democratic Party state convention. Local Democratic Committee officers and delegates have a vote at annual state Democratic Party conventions to approve the party platform. Any registered Democrat, regardless of past political experience, can run for an officer or delegate position. Andrew Weir is Hampstead Democratic chair.

Food for Fines

March is "Food for Fines" month at the Hampstead Public Library. Anyone incurring a fee at the library during March 2012 can bring in non-perishable foods, toiletries, or paper goods and the fine will be forgiven. The library will give all donated goods to the Hampstead Ecumenical Food Pantry at St. Anne's Church.

Author Visit

On Thursday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library welcomes children's book author Mike Mullin, whose recent novel, "Ashfall," is an adventure tale for kids ages 12 and up. He will read from his book, sign books, and do a martial arts demonstration.

Thrift Shop

The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library Hollyhock Thrift Shop holds a half price sale on March 17 to clear out winter items. The shop is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. It will be closed from March 20 through 31 for restocking with spring and summer clothing. On Tuesday, April 3, the shop will once again be open. The Thrift Shop is in the basement of the Hampstead Library.

Ham & Bean Supper

A Ham & Bean Supper will be held Saturday, March 17, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Rt. 111. The menu includes two kinds of beans, ham, hot dogs, potato salad, cole slaw, assorted breads, desserts, and beverages. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, free to preschoolers. Take-out meals are available. Proceeds benefit the Operating Fund of this historic church, which is chairlift accessible. For more information, call 378-0683.

Women's Bible Study

All ladies are invited to attend Island Pond Baptist Church's spring women's bible study, titled "How Should We Then Live," a lecture series by Francis Schaeffer. A study guide will be provided free. The study,

which begins March 15, will be held in the sanctuary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Coffee in the morning and lunch will be served. The church is at 26 North Salem Road. Call the church office at 329-5959, or visit www.islandpondbc.org for more information.

Parents Meeting

On Wednesday, March 21, from 7 to 9 p.m., Hampstead Central School will host its annual registration of incoming 5- and 6-year-olds. All parents of these students are encouraged to attend. Register online at the school website at: <http://hampstead.k12.nh.us> or contact the school office at 329-

6326, ext. 100. The meeting is for parents only. For those unable to attend, registration packets will be available after the meeting date.

Father/Daughter Dance

The Hampstead Mothers Club hosts its third annual Father/Daughter Dance on Saturday, April 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Hampstead Middle School. This year's theme is "Hollywood Glamour." Greg from Fizzgig Entertainment will be the DJ. Photos will be available for a \$5 sitting fee. Tickets to this event are \$15 per couple, \$2 per additional child, and can be purchased in advance through a club member or at the door.

Email hampsteadfatherdaughterdance@hotmail.com for tickets or additional information.

Health Fair

The 11th annual Multi-Community Health Fair, co-sponsored by the Hampstead School Nurses and the Hampstead Lions Club, will be held Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at Hampstead Middle School on School Street, off Route 121. The Health Fair is free and open to all neighboring communities. The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at the same location from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At the fair, the Hampstead Fire Department will hold

demonstrations, and medical screenings, hearing and eye exams, bone density studies and posture analysis will be performed by local professions. Information will be available on nutrition, holistic health, diabetes management, Lyme disease and other topics. Walgreen's will have giveaways, and free tote bags donated by OMO Specialties will be available at the registration table. Also given away will be free children's bike helmets on a first come, first served basis. Each adult will receive three free raffle tickets. For further information, call Berny Longbook at 329-5603, or Michelle Bernard at 329-6743, ext 8.

Poetry Workshop

April is National Poetry Month, and the Hampstead Public Library will be celebrating with a free workshop for all ages on Tuesday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. The presenter is Ginger Hurajt, professor of English at Northern Essex Community College, where she teaches Poetry as Literature, Creative Writing Poetry, and Creative Nonfiction, as well as composition and other literature courses. She is also a member of the school's Poetry Group. Workshop space is limited, so sign up at the library's front desk, call 329-6411, or email programsHPL@gmail.com.

Violin Recital

The Violin School offers a violin recital on Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at St. Christopher's Church, 187 East Road, just south of Route 111. Students will perform works by Bach, Kreisler, Haydn, and others. Also performing will be by Paul Cronin, who placed second statewide in this year's All State competition. For more information, visit: www.theviolinschool.com or call 329-5842.

SANDOWN

Spring Soccer

On-line registration is under way for the non-profit continued on page 15

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Stream

continued from page 1

Those most familiar with the equipment say that while it's useful to have its immediate data, what's best is long-range information collected over many years. This allows researchers the best chance at understanding what the rivers are doing.

"We need a stable and long-term funding source," said Wayne Ives of the state Department of Environmental Services. "It (the stream gauge) records valuable data for the moment, but the value increases as the record gets longer."

Long-term data, from a planning perspective, allows towns to make better decisions on culvert and bridge size and to determine the risk of building infrastructure or homes in flood

zones.

Illustrative of that planning need is Sandown, which has a warrant article this year asking voters to accept their share of a \$214,435 federal hazardous mitigation grant to fix a too small culvert on Wells Village Road. Since 1998, at least \$83,837 in tax dollars has been spent fixing the area.

Mark Traeger, a member of the Sandown Conservation Commission and Exeter Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee, said that from a town perspective, the stream gauge's data is useful when applying for grants when culverts fail.

Without reliable information, towns either overbuild water crossings or deal with underbuilt ones.

Ives said a push for more information from the rivers came after 2005, when the

Cold River in Alstead flooded, causing extensive damage and loss of life.

Kiah said the USGS has relatively good information for the larger watersheds across the country, but that doesn't hold true on the smaller ones. The partnership between the USGS and the state had allowed the USGS to begin filling in those data gaps.

Ives said installing the gauges was costly, and what is more costly is removing them and putting them back when funding returns. That cost isn't only in dollars, but in data gaps as well.

The cost to run a gauge for a year is about \$15,000, half of which is paid by the USGS. The problem Ives sees is that when funding on the state side gets cut off, not only are staff and other resources lost, but efforts at securing federal funding become more difficult.

Classified Ads

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Ad will run in Three Newspapers and Reach over 30,000 Homes in Londonderry, Derry, Chester, Hampstead, and Sandown!

Deadline for placing ads is Monday at 3 p.m. for that week's publication.

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Minimum charge does not include bold type.

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Happenings

continued from page 13

it Timberlane Youth Soccer League's (TYSL) spring season, which runs for six weeks and begins Saturday, May 5, with no games Memorial Day weekend. The season ends on Saturday, June 16. Registration fee is \$40 for U6 – U12 divisions and \$50 for U14-U16. Register by Feb. 15 to receive a sibling discount of \$5. Registration ends March 15. A paper registration night will not take place. For additional information, visit: www.timberlaneyouthsoccer.org or call 382-3344. TYSL is not affiliated with the Timberlane Regional School District and is not sponsored by the Recreation Departments of the four district towns – Sandown, Atkinson, Danville and Plaistow. TYSL is looking for someone to work alongside the referee coordinator this season in preparation to take over the position in the fall. Assistant division coordinators are needed for U6, U8 and U10.

Knitting Group

Beginners to advanced knitters are invited to join the weekly knitting group on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library.

Busy Bears Preschool

Preschoolers are invited on Tuesdays to Busy Bears Preschool Story Hours, with sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library.

Chess Club

On Thursday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m., the Sandown Public Library Chess Club meets with chess master Monty Cole. All ages are welcome to play, and no experience is needed.

Books & Bites

Books & Bites Adult Book Discussion is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Sandown Public Library. This month's book is "Before I Go to Sleep" by S.J. Watson. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Rockin' Readers

The Rockin' Readers Book Club for fourth and fifth graders meets at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at the Sandown Public Library to discuss "The Eyes of the Amaryllis" by Natalie Babbitt. A snack is served.

Children's Movie

At 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, children are invited to watch the newly-released Muppets Movie at the Sandown Public Library. Those attending are invited to bring a snack.

Library Friends

The Friends of the Sandown Public Library will hold its business meeting Monday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the library. New members are always welcome.

Archery Classes

A four-week indoor session of archery for children and adults, sponsored by Sandown Parks and Recreation in cooperation with Archery in Motion, LLC of Concord, begins Wednesday, March 28. National Archery Association certified instructor Mike Buldoc will teach Olympic style target archery, including the fundamentals of shooting target archery while focusing on safety and form. Cost is \$60 for Sandown residents and \$65 for non-residents. Classes take place at Sandown North Elementary School, with some sessions potentially taking place outdoors. Class for students in grades 4-8 is from

4:30 to 5:30 p.m., while adults and high school students meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visit www.sandown.us and navigate to the Parks and Recreation page for registration information. Call Recreation Director Deb Brown at 887-1872 to check space prior to sending payment.

Rockingham Pops

The Timberlane Regional Performing Arts Center in Plaistow presents the 2012 Rockingham Pops Concert featuring the New York Voices, on Saturday, April 7, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students. Call 257-5257 or order online at www.mktix.com/trpac.

Senior Fitness

Sandown residents age 60 and older may sign up for a six-week spring session of "Fitness for Fun," offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. Senior instructor and former physical education teacher Vera Kirk offers a way to incorporate gentle exercise that can be done either sitting or standing. The class will take place Tuesdays at 11 a.m. from March 20 through April 24 at the Edward Garvey Recreation Facility on Pheasant Run Drive. Cost is \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Call the recreation office at 887-1872 for space availability. Send registration to: Sandown Parks and Recreation, P.O. 642, Sandown, NH 03873 or drop it off in the recreation mailbox at Town Hall. No cash is accepted. Registrations are due by Monday, March 19. Class may be cancelled if not enough registrations are received.

REGIONAL

Benefit Concert, Auction

Grammy award winner Paula Cole will be at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy on Friday, May 4, at 7 p.m. All proceeds from the fourth annual Concert and Silent Auction will benefit the Center for Life Management Foundation, which supports the non-profit community mental health agency that serves the greater Derry/Salem/Plaistow region. Tickets are on sale online at www.stockbridgetheatre.com, by phone at 437-5210 or at the Stockbridge Theatre box office Mondays through Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. The silent auction opens at 6 p.m.

Freedom from Anxiety

New Creation Healing Center, 80 Route 125, Kingston, is bringing back "Healing of Anxiety: Freedom from Fear" on Saturday, March 24. For more information, call 642-6700, email conference coordinator Marlene Weitemeyer at NCHC-events@yahoo.com or visit the New Creation website at www.newcreationhc.org.

Community Meals Network

Free, family-friendly meals, served in a relaxed atmosphere, are offered at the following times and places, all in Derry: March 17, 5 p.m., dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 63 East Broadway, 434-4767; March 18, 9 to 10 a.m., breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 1 Hood Road, 432-2120; March 18, 5 to 6:30

p.m., vegetarian dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, 432-0004; March 22, 5 p.m., spaghetti supper, West Running Brook Middle School, 1 West Running Brook Lane, 432-1250; and March 30, 5 to 6:30 p.m., spaghetti supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 434-0628.

St. Thomas Auction

The St. Thomas Aquinas School annual Silent and Live Auctions will take place Saturday, April 14, in the Aquinas Center, behind St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 26 Crystal Ave., Derry. Hundreds of items will be available for bidding in all price ranges. Auction items and monetary donations are welcome. On Auction Night, doors open at 6 p.m. for viewing of items, along with games, prizes and surprises. The silent auction will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the live auction at 8:15 p.m. MasterCard and Visa will be accepted for payments on winning bids. Tickets for the auction are available from the St. Thomas Aquinas

School and parish offices or at the door, and are \$15 per person, which includes a dinner buffet. Parties of 10 can reserve a table. No one under 21 is admitted. For more information, call the school at 432-2712. Money raised from the auction will be used to fund the current needs of students as well as future development projects.

State Reflections

The New Hampshire Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosts the state PTA Reflections exhibit Monday, March 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, 5 Hood Rd., Derry. Reflections is a national arts program sponsored by the PTA for preschool through grade 12; more information is available at: www.ptareflections.org. Categories include literature, musical composition, dance choreography, visual arts, photography, and film production. This year's theme is "Diversity means..." All first place entries go on to national judging.



TOWN OF CHESTER PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING BOARD

The Chester Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at 7:45 P.M. in the Meeting Room at the Municipal Office Building, 84 Chester Street to act on the following:

7:45 P.M.

Proposed zoning amendments to the Town of Chester Zoning Ordinance:

1. Amend Section 4.4 Signs, Subsection 4.4.2.2 by adding the size of the wall sign allowed in the Commercial (C1) and Limited Commercial/Light Industrial (C2) Zones and Subsection 4.4.3.4 by stating that lighting on signs must be downcast per the Lighting Requirements.
2. Amend Section 5.5 Limited Commercial/Light Industrial Zone (C2), Subsection 5.5.3 Prohibited Uses by adding a new subsection prohibiting residential housing of any type.
3. Amend Article 6 Open Space Subdivision. Subsections 6.8.6 Ownership Provisions for Conservation Area and 6.8.7 Conservation Area in Private Ownership to clarify their intent and to enable the Town to recover incurred costs.
4. Amend Article 10 Administration and Enforcement by rewording to clarify the permitting process.

These documents can be viewed during regular business hours in the Town Clerk's Office, Board of Selectmen's Office and the Planning Board Office at the Municipal Office Building. Questions and/or comments should be directed to the Planning Board Office.

Brian Sullivan
Chairman

HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT School Board Recording Secretary

Qualifications:

Typing, computer, transcription, organizational skills, Ability to meet required deadlines and confidentiality

Application Deadline: March 23, 2012

Submit letter of intent, resume, and 3 letters of reference to:

School Board

c/o C. Belcher

SAU #55

30 Greenough Road, Plaistow, N.H. 03865

EOE

TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH OPEN POSITION ASSISTANT BUILDING INSPECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER

The Town of Sandown is seeking letters of interest for the position of Assistant Building Inspector and Assistant Health Officer. Applicants must have knowledge of the NH Building Codes, RSA's and local zoning ordinances as adopted by the State of New Hampshire and the Town of Sandown. A background in health related issues is preferred. Applicants must use the highest degree of professionalism. This position would be providing periodic vacation/auxiliary coverage. Please submit your letters of interest on or before April 16, 2012 to the Town of Sandown, PO Box 1756, Sandown, NH 03873.

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4:00 - 9:00**

**SAT., MARCH 17
10:00 - 6:00**

**SUN., MARCH 18
10:00 - 5:00**

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